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A History of the Jewish People, during the Babylonian, Persian, and Greek Periods. By CHARLES FOSTER KENT, Ph.D., Professor of Biblical Literature and History, Brown University. With maps and chart. New York : Charles Scribner's Sons, 1899. Pp. xx + 380. \$1.25, *net*.

This volume, while treating of a distinct period of Hebrew history, completes the series of volumes on the general subject which Professor Kent has prepared for popular reading. It is marked by all the admirable characteristics of the preceding volumes—clearness of presentation, warmth of sympathy, modernness of view. It is by all odds the best popular discussion of this important period of Jewish history, a period so full of difficulties and by many regarded as so barren in interest as to fail of adequate consideration in most of the popular manuals. We are beginning to see now that it is, in some respects, the most important age in the history of the Hebrew people—the age in which their religious books received their final impress, and their religious ideas and institutions took on the form and content out of which Christianity sprang. Much investigation on the part of the most advanced historical and critical students of the Old Testament has been devoted to this period within the last decade. Professor Kent has taken note of this, and his pages reflect some of the newest conclusions. While recognizing the strong arguments in favor of a reversal and reconstruction of the events of the Ezra-Nehemiah period proposed by continental scholars and presented clearly and cogently by Professor Kent, we are not yet persuaded that these views will stand. Space does not permit us to state here what seem to be difficulties raised by these new positions, and certainly a debt of gratitude is due to Professor Kent for bringing the subject so fully and ably before the minds of all biblical students. No more profitable book in Old Testament lines could be taken up by biblical students for their next year's study than this admirable volume. We have noted one serious misprint : on p. 327 "198 B. C." should be 168 B. C.

G. S. G.

Christian Missions and Social Progress. A Sociological Study of Foreign Missions. Vol. II. By REV. JAMES S. DENNIS, D.D. Chicago : Fleming H. Revell Co., 1899. Pp. xxvi + 486. \$2.50, *net*.

The appearance of the second volume of this work gives suitable occasion for insisting on the high value of the presentation of facts

and arguments. The social service of our missionaries abroad constitutes at once evidence of the divine character of the message, of the fidelity of the contemporary heralds and ministers to the principles of the Author of Christianity, and of the practical value of foreign missions. These descriptions of humane ministries in the name of Christ appeal to head and heart on behalf of the cause for which the author pleads. The plea is intelligible, and ought to be convincing even to those who stand outside the circle of faith.

Every patriot should be gratified to read of the character and labor of those devoted men who represent our country and other Christian nations in lands where, too often, soldiers, sailors, and greedy traders have offended the conscience of heathen and put us to shame before barbarians and savages. Dr. Dennis tells us the story of liberation of slaves, establishment of hospitals and schools, uplifting of morality, promotion of education, and advancement of all the ideals and resources of the peoples to whom the gospel has been carried in modern times. When an educated family goes to a country yet untouched by the highest influences of civilization, it embodies the results of classic and Christian culture, and transplants that culture to the new home. A new beginning is made in character, sentiments, beliefs, standards of living. New wants are awakened. Merely animal satisfactions have rivals in the spiritual aspirations and tastes. New motives to industry and culture are born, and all these forces create higher institutions.

Perhaps never has the advantage of sociological analysis been shown in the collection and ordering of materials relating to missions better than here, and the result is a vivid, interesting, impressive, and cumulative argument. The third and final volume of the series will be awaited with strong expectations.

C. R. HENDERSON.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO.

LITERARY NOTES.

THE John Bohlen Lectures of Professor Henry S. Nash have been printed under the title of *Ethics and Revelation* (New York: The Macmillan Co., 1899; pp. vi + 277; \$1.50). They are full of admirable suggestions looking to the importance of society in the training of the individual, and arguing for the absolute necessity of religion in society for this end. Unfortunately, Professor Nash's